

Soldier of Year follows in mother's boot prints

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Spc. Loni Duenas-Showers, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U. S. Army Garrison, can be considered a lot of things. Above all else, though, she is one determined Soldier.

She seems to take after her mother.

Showers and her mother, Victoria Showers, have both earned the honor of being chosen as Fort Huachuca "Soldier of the Year." Showers received it for 2005. Her mother received the honor in 1990.

"Our whole family is competitive," Showers said as she explained the dynamics and the discipline in her family.

Her childhood was spent in a much disciplined household. Her parents always wanted the best for their kids, so they kept them busy with every opportunity possible. Her father, a prior-service Soldier, and her mother, a retired sergeant first class, kept their kids especially active in karate and dancing. The dancing is something she still enjoys doing. I love dancing, any dancing," she explained.

Showers has even taught dancing here in Sierra Vista, both at Alma Dolores International Dance Studio and for Morale, Welfare and Recreation.



Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast presents the Soldier of the Year award to Spc. Loni Duenas-Showers, an Air-traffic controller for Libby Army Airfield.

Showers, an air-traffic controller for Libby Army Airfield, began her quest for SOY by going to a Soldier of the Month board. When she didn't get selected initially, she just kept trying.

"I love to prove people wrong," she said.

Three SOM boards and two Soldier of the Quarter boards later, and Showers was in the running for the post SOY.

"It was just more studying and carrying around flash cards," she explained. "By the time you get to the Soldier of the Year board, you pretty much have all the knowledge you need. It's already in there."

She credits her success to watching her coworkers. She explains that any time her friends or colleagues achieve something; she wants to achieve it too.

"I'm just a little competitive," she said smiling.

Now that she's won the Soldier of the Year honor, her mother is already pushing her to go to the Sgt. Audie Murphy board and the Sgt. Morales board. She's even facing the possibility of starting over in her SOY quest, as she's moving to Germany this week.

"I don't mind starting over," said Showers. "If it's out there, I'm going to try to get it."